

Newport Recreation Advisory Commission

August 20, 2015

6:30 PM

Approved Sept. 17, 2015

Present Members:

Bernice Wooten, Kim Nead, P. K. Johnson, Jonathan Mason, Robert Harrell, and Terra Boyd

Absent Members:

C.D. Whitlow (ex)

Guest:

Dr. Deb Jordan

Vickie & Steve Edmondson

Staff:

Manager, Angela Christian

Kelley Caldwell

The August 20, 2015 meeting of the Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order by acting Chairman Bernice Wooten at 6:30. She called for the adoption of the agenda. There was a request to move Dr. Deb Jordan to Open issues and add election of officers to the agenda. **Mr. Brian Harrell moved to adopt the agenda as amended, Mr. P.K. Johnson seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

Acting Chairwoman Wooten then gave the members' time to review the minutes of the June 18, 2015 meeting. (There was no quorum in July) **Brian Harrell moved to approve the minutes as written. Mr. P.K. Johnson seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

Introduction of New Members:

We welcome Mrs. Terra Boyd, who is filling the unexpired term of Robert Lewis. Mrs. Boyd lives on the Loop Road and is excited to be a member of the Commission. Jonathan Mason, who is filling the unexpired term of James Brooks and resides on Scot Drive, thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve.

Open issues:

Master Plan: Dr. Deb Jordan, Professor at Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies, East Carolina University has been contracted by the Town to update the Newport Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Dr. Jordan is present tonight to provide information as to the process of developing a Master Plan. The Town's plan is in need of updating and usually there should be no more than 5 years between plans. Our last plan was intended to guide Newport to the year 2005. Dr. Jordan stated that Newport has had a 39% growth rate in 15 years. Gathering information from the public is a crucial in developing plans like this. Dr. Jordan and her intern will be in Newport doing survey interviews and asking for the Recreation Commissions assistance in gathering public input for future park development. She will gather inventory data, park property data, open space and public and private recreational assets data; she will then compile the information and analyze the data and provide ideas based on what is collected. She will also look at demographics and determine where Newport is trending as a community. This process will be very aggressive, she expects to have a draft document for review by mid. November. (Power point is attached)

3/3 Basketball tournament discussion: Town Manager, Angela Christian reported the back ground work has been completed with Kelley's help and we are ready, however, we are in need of participants. She asked members to spread the word. She also expressed the need for volunteers. Mr. Johnson expressed his concerns due to the event being held on the last long weekend of summer. We should pick a different weekend next time Mrs. Nead suggested. Mrs. Christian noted if we had 10 teams sign up she would consider the event a success, this being the first year. She also stated there would be expenses, but hope to cover those with entry fees. The discussion continued with suggestions made regarding a Newport Recreation Facebook page. There are ads in the This Week Magazine and on the Talk Station, Mrs. Christian will be personally delivering flyers to interested groups on Friday. She stated the mechanics are complete, we just need player and volunteers.

Brian Harrell asked to be excused. He will be working in Florida for the next three months, but has requested that he remain on the Commission. The consensus was to excuse Mr. Harrell and save his seat on the Commission until he returns.

New Business:

Citizens Comments: Vickie Edmondson, Newport Little League, asked to speak. Mrs. Edmondson on behalf of the Newport Little League expressed their gratitude for the light funding and noted the light poles have been delivered and installation will begin immediately. Steven Edmondson noted fall ball practice will begin soon and they will be using the field on Johnson Street, he asked if the field could be mowed. Kelley noted Public Works has the information regarding fall ball.

Managers' Report: Mrs. Angela Christian, Town Manager, reported at last February's Council retreat they approved the purchase of new Christmas lights. She is proposing "Winterfest" as a continuation of the Christmas Parade with activities in the Community Park following the parade. There was some suggestions and an exchange of ideas. Mrs. Nead expressed a concern over the amount time the band children would be involved. They arrive early and it's almost dark by the time the parade concludes. Mrs. Christian asked for the members to consider the idea and make a decision at the next recreation meeting. Mrs. Christian stated in this year's budget Council included \$30,000. for playground equipment replacement. The largest structure in the park will be replaced with new equipment in a "turnkey" arrangement with the company. She then shared a concept photo of what the equipment would look like. The park equipment will be an item on the Council's September agenda. The Town will have an opportunity to apply for a large PARTF Grant through the State once the Master Plan is complete. It has been over twenty years since Newport was awarded with funds from PARTF. Mrs. Christian then shared that Heritage days would take place on September 18th and 19th. She has been attending their meetings and the Heritage Committee has asked the Recreation Commission to participate again this year. The members agreed to provide games like corn hole, hide the apple. We will also use this opportunity to give away the leftover bicycle helmets. **Mr. Jon Mason moved to have two sets of corn-hole boards constructed not to exceed a cost of \$100. Mrs. Terra Boyd seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

Financial Report: Kelley reported the financial report has been re designed for better understanding. The balance in the Community Garden fund is \$5,309. Recreation Activities balance \$2,970. This is the money the Commission has to spend for the rest of the fiscal year. Mrs. Boyd asked if there were opportunities to raise funds, the manager answered yes and explained why it was important for Newport to put a Master Plan in place as a tool to open doors to grant opportunities. Contracted Services balance is \$1,185. These funds cover the cost of the port-a-potties.

Gifts and Donations balance is \$200. The Commission agreed to fund \$300. to an American Legion Team for the State Championships; where they placed fourth.

Community Garden: This item was tabled until September 17, 2015.

Council Comments: No members of Council were present.

Elections: Acting Chairwoman Wooten opened the floor for nominations. Mr. P.K. Johnson moved that Bernice Wooten remain the Chairperson, Mrs. Wooten declined. Jon Mason volunteered to become Chairman; Mrs. Wooten then volunteered to remain as Vice Chairperson. **P.K. Johnson moved to accept the nominations as presented. Mrs. Terra Boyd seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

Commission Member Comments: Terra Boyd suggested developing a Town APP, she also noted she is available as a volunteer where needed. Vice Chairman Wooten suggested the need for a place to walk dogs.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm. Next meeting is Sept. 17, 2015 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelley Caldwell